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### Attempts

Iraq's President Saddam Hussein has survived seven assassination attempts over the past 15 years, his intelligence chief says in a newly-published book.

Barzan Tikriti, who is also Hussein's brother, says in his book titled: "Attempts to Assassinate President Saddam Hussein" that the first try was made in January 1969 and the latest early last year.

The 189-page book published by Al-Dar Al-Arabia (Arab Printing Press, Baghdad) has just gone on public sale in Iraq.

Tikriti accuses several organizations and states of implication in the various attempts, including the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency

(CIA), the Israeli Intelligence Agency, Mossad, Iran, Syria, the fundamentalist Moslem Brotherhood and Iraq's underground Al-Daawa (the call) Party.

The book claims that among those involved were two former prime ministers, a deputy prime minister and several cabinet members who had also belonged to Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC).

As to the fate of the plotters, the book says only that those involved "got their just penalty."

However, the Iraqi media has published reports on the executions of some of them, including former Deputy Prime Minister and Planning Minister Adnan Hussein, Industry and Minerals Minister Mohammed Ayish, both of whom were RCC members, and senior RCC official Ghanim Abdul-Jalil.

Tikriti accuses Adnan Hussein and his group of having had secret contacts with Syria to plot a coup in 1979 but says they were caught red-handed.

According to Tikriti, the first assassination attempt in January, 1969 involved former Prime Minister Abdul-Rahman Al-Bazzaz and followed the Baath Party coup the previous July, which brought the late President Ahmed Hasan Al-Bakr to power.

Saddam Hussein, now 45, played a prominent role in the coup and was number two to Bakr until becoming president on the latter's retirement for health reasons in 1979.

Tikriti says the second plot in December, 1970 was masterminded by an American and involved the CIA, Iranian intelligence, Israeli intelligence and the late Kurdish rebel leader Mustapha Barzani.

The Iraqi intelligence chief said the ranks of the plotters had been infiltrated and they were all rounded up on the day they planned to carry out their coup.

He said the next assassination plot was led by the former director-general of Iraqi security, Nazim Gizar, in June 1973.

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